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Kentucky Ag News Headlines

KFB Asks State's Congressional Leaders to Vote 'Yes' on Farm Bill

Kentucky Ag Connection - 05/13/2008

Kentucky Farm Bureau has asked Kentucky's Congressional delegation to vote yes on a comprehensive farm bill now before the House and Senate, and to support an override if President Bush follows through on a threatened veto.

Farm Bureau President Marshall Coyle says the bill has been "carefully crafted" to reform farm policy while providing a basic safety net for farmers when prices decline.

Coyle said the bill also increases funding to feed the nation's poor and enhances support for conservation initiatives.

He noted, "Growing concerns about food costs, supply and safety make it imperative we pass a farm bill that provides a solid foundation for American agriculture to continue production of food and fiber.

"This bill provides a basic, no frills safety net for America's farmers while increasing support for the hungry and the environment," Coyle said.

The legislation, which covers crop years 2008 through 2012, earmarks around 67 per cent of the \$300 billion five-year spending total to nutrition programs. Only about 12 per cent is devoted to the commodity title while roughly 11 per cent targets conservation programs.

The remainder of the funding pays for a variety of research, rural development, forestry and related programs that are vital to colleges, community agencies and rural communities.

The legislation represents the work of a conference committee that has been working since last year to resolve differences in House and Senate versions. Each chamber is expected to vote on the compromise legislation later this week and send it to the President.

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